J. JAIRUS' DAUGHTER. MARK 5:22-24, 35-43

Mark has dovetail the two stories of Jairus daughter and the woman with the haemorrhage to show there is a gap between Jairus coming to him and him actually arriving and finding that the girl had died. No-one would have asked even the greatest of miracle-workers to attend a corpse.

There are lots of interesting details in this story which might have only come from an eye-witness: the name of the girl's father; Jesus's actual words in the Aramaic; the girl's age; Jesus' instruction after the healing. In particular, we are told that Jesus took Peter, James and John with him into the room. (Everybody would have normally avoided the room where the deceased person was laid as an "unclean" zone.) So we can speculate that Mark's Gospel may have been based on an eye-witness report of Peter. Those who favour "natural" explanations of the miracles would find inspiration in the fact that in an eastern climate the whole business of burying the dead was accomplished with the utmost speed (see *Acts* 5:5-10). Perhaps the mourners were mistaken in their hasty belief that the girl had died!

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CHRIST RAISES JAIRUS' DAUGHTER
AFTER REMBRANDT